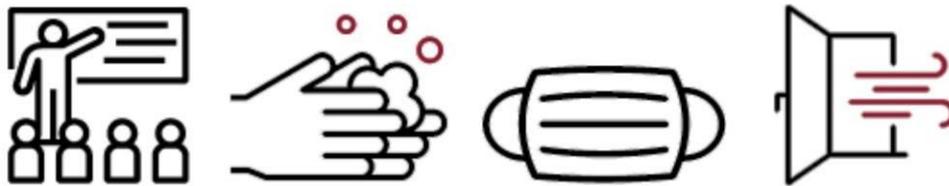


Corona Hygiene Concept pertaining to Schools in Rhineland-Palatinate

7. revised version, as of 22 February 2021



Corona Hygiene Concept pertaining to Schools in Rhineland-Palatinate

Table of Contents

- I. Preliminary Remarks/Scope of Application**
- II. Infection control and occupational health and safety**
- III. Infection control and hygiene measures**
 - 1. Personal hygiene
 - 2. Mask requirement
 - 3. Room hygiene
 - 4. Symptoms of a disease, illnesses and contact persons
 - 5. Persons with special risks
- IV. Teaching under the conditions of a pandemic**

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The ordinances of the state government set out the protective measures which apply nationwide. The local authorities are authorized (and, if necessary, obliged) to impose further measures, as well as exceptions in individual cases.

All schools are required to provide for a hygiene plan IAW § 36 in conjunction with § 33 of the Infection Protection Act (IfSG), setting out the major key points under the German Infection Protection Act, to provide a hygienic environment contributing to the health of students and all those engaged in schools.

This Corona Hygiene Concept supplements the Standard Hygiene Concept and shall be applied in accordance with the State Corona Control Ordinance in its current version. It applies to the school building, as well as to the school grounds that are part of the school and are covered by the school's supervisory responsibilities.

II. INFECTION CONTROL AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

This hygiene concept also provides information on the technical and organizational measures to be implemented in terms of occupational health and safety, as well as on any individual protective measures that may be required. The considerations and measures implemented to adapt this hygiene plan to the circumstances in the respective school are to be evaluated as part of the risk assessment relating to the pandemic situation in terms of § 5 of the German Occupational Health and Safety Act (ArbSchG).

Schools are only required to evaluate implementing the necessary measures and any resulting potential risks on site based on local conditions (see online checklist from the Institute for Teacher Health and the Rhineland-Palatinate Accident Insurance Fund)¹. The responsible school authority is also to be included in this process, if necessary.

Teachers and educational specialists at special and inclusive education schools, who are assigned to providing special care, shall be provided with personal protective equipment as required. For further details, reference is made to the separate instructions for schools with a special focus on holistic development and/or motor development, as well as for special schools offering a holistic development education program.

¹ <https://www.unimedizin-mainz.de/ifl/startseite.html>

III. INFECTION CONTROL AND HYGIENE MEASURES

The current epidemiological development relating to the spread of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infections remains very dynamic. Novel virus variants (mutations) show a high spreading rate. The novel variants are likely to impede anti-pandemic efforts in Germany. Therefore, it is even more important to consistently follow the common rules - maintaining distance, observing hygiene rules, wearing masks and ventilating - so as to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in general.²

The above rules must also be followed by individuals, who have had a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and are considered to have recovered. According to the latest information, partial immunity can be assumed, however, a renewed infection and the associated risk of transmission to other persons cannot be ruled out.³

Stringent compliance with infection control and hygiene measures is an essential requirement for all school activities, not only for teaching in the classroom. This applies in particular to direct contacts within the teaching staff (e.g. in the staff room, during meetings and discussions).

School administrators as well as teachers lead by example while also ensuring that students are committed to and comply with hygiene instructions. All employees of the schools, the school authorities, all students and all other persons regularly working at schools are also required to adhere carefully to the current hygiene instructions issued by the health authorities or the Robert Koch Institute.

²https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Virusvariante.html;jsessionid=6CDC860C8039A2A707BB973A36E8F4EF.internet052?nn=2444038

³<https://www.rki.de/SharedDocs/FAQ/NCOV2019/gesamt.html>



1. Personal Hygiene

1.1. Distancing and physical contact

- As a general rule, the minimum distance of 1.5 m applies at all times, unless this hygiene plan provides for exemptions.
- Physical contact (hugging, shaking hands, or any personal physical contact) is to be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary for instructional, pedagogical, or health reasons, e.g., for first aid measures. In this case, appropriate protective measures (see No. 9) are to be taken.

1.2. Cough and sneeze etiquette

- Coughing and sneezing into the bend of the arm or a tissue are two key preventive measures. When coughing or sneezing, the maximum possible distance to others is to be kept.

1.3. Hand hygiene

Thorough hand washing according to the applicable rules (cf. information provided by the German Federal Center for Health Education⁴).

- **Hand disinfection**, in particular when access to a washing facility is not available to a sufficient extent (avoid queues). The use of hand disinfectants is to be trained and supervised depending on age, bearing in mind that hand disinfectants are hazardous substances and can cause damage to health if used improperly. The application instructions of the manufacturer are to be observed.

2. Mask requirement

Every person on school grounds (teachers and other school personnel, students, parents, non-school personnel) is required to wear a mask.

⁴ <https://www.infektionsschutz.de/haendewaschen>

The hygiene instructions pertaining to mask wear are to be adhered to and taught (cf. also the information provided by the German Federal Center for Health Education (BZH)⁵).

The mask requirement applies to all rooms and areas in the school building (classrooms and study rooms, hallways, passages and stairways, during lunch break sales, in the cafeteria, in the administration area, in the teachers' office) as well as on the open school grounds and, as a general rule, applies to the entire time of school attendance.

Masks to be used are:

- **Medical face masks**, also known as mouth-nose protection (MNS) or surgical masks;

or

- **Respiratory protection masks according to the FFP2 standard or comparable.** These are generally not required in the classroom. At most, they should be used temporarily in special situations, e.g. for first aid.

Medical masks are recommended for students of grades 1 to 4 and the lower grades in special schools, while everyday masks remain permitted. The mask requirement is to be implemented taking into account the educational requirements and the age of the children.

The following are not permitted:

- Masks with an exhalation valve: they merely filter the inhaled air and, thus, do not provide protection for others.
- Face visors/face shields made of plastic: can only be used to complement a mask, as, at best, they catch the droplets that fall directly onto the lens (spit protection), but offer no filtering effect.

⁵ <https://www.infektionsschutz.de/coronavirus/alltag-in-zeiten-von-corona/alltagsmaske-tragen.html>

2.1. Exemptions from the mask requirement

Students of special schools who cannot wear or tolerate a mask due to their special needs are exempt from the mask requirement **in class**, according to the Corona Control Ordinance.

Also, exemptions from the mask requirement apply in all types of schools under the following conditions:

- If necessary for identification purposes or for communication with people with hearing or visual impairments, the mask can be temporarily removed.
- During exams and assignments, provided that the minimum distance of 1.5 meters is maintained and the examination room is aired in accordance with infection control requirements.
- For staff, after arriving at their respective workstation, provided that no other persons are present. Besides administrative and housekeeping staff, this includes school management and teaching staff, who have their own office and do not engage in personal contact with other persons there, or persons occupying a room alone.
- As far as this is required for food consumption (eating and drinking). A minimum distance of 1.5 m must be maintained to other persons. This also applies throughout the cafeteria..
- During outdoor breaks, provided that the distance to other persons of at least 1.5 meters is maintained.
- To persons who cannot wear a mask or cannot be expected to do so for health reasons or special needs (see 2.4.).

Wearing a mask may also be temporarily exempted at elementary schools for important educational reasons, provided that the other hygiene rules and, in particular, the distance requirement is strictly adhered to. The exemptions are to be kept to the absolutely necessary extent.

2.2. Time limits to and breaks from wearing the mask

Regular time-off periods are to be facilitated, during which the mask can be taken off. A break from wearing the mask can be taken during the school day:

- outdoors, bearing in mind the distance requirement to others (e.g. during breaks),
- when a person is alone in a room,
- outdoors, as required by individual classes/groups.

If acute symptoms of impairment occur (e.g. breathing problems or headaches), appropriate action must be taken on a case-by-case basis (e.g. by taking an additional mask break outdoors).

2.3. Mask requirement in specialized classes

The mask requirement applies to all classes, as a rule. However, special provisions apply to:

- **Science/technical/practical classes**

It is to be ensured that no additional hazards, such as easy flammability, fogging of the goggles, or trapping of the mask by rotating tools occur when working with open flames and flammable hazardous substances, or when wearing protective goggles or working with tools. The teacher is to conduct a specific risk assessment in advance in individual cases and, in case of doubt, refrain from using the corresponding practical components of the lesson.

- **Gym classes**

Outdoor sports classes can continue to be held regularly without a mask, but while maintaining a distance. Indoor sports theory classes can also be held regularly (with mask on).

Regular indoor physical education classes cannot be held with mask being worn. If no alternative can be provided via regular outdoor physical education classes, the students are to be offered light physical activity classes in an attempt to provide them with some limited physical education. Such classes can be conducted with low impact intensity while wearing a mask. The teacher holds educational responsibility for a differentiated impact control.

- **Music lessons**

Practical music activities are only permitted if a mask is worn. If the infection protection and hygiene measures cannot be ensured, practical music activities are to be refrained from (cf. guidelines for practical music activities at schools).

2.4. Exemption from the mask requirement/documentation

Students can be exempted from the mask requirement if wearing a mask proves impossible for them due to special needs or health reasons.

This is to be confirmed by a medical certificate. Said certificate must at least clearly state the grounds underlying the medical diagnosis and the reasons as to why wearing a mask represents an unreasonable burden in the specific case.

The original paper copy of the medical certificate must be submitted. The submission of the medical certificate is to be documented in the student's file using the attached form (see Appendix 1) as evidence of an exemption from the mask requirement and must be countersigned by the legal guardian or the student themselves, having reached the required legal age. The medical certificate remains in the possession of the person concerned. A copy will not be made.

The exemption from the mask requirement is valid for a maximum period of 3 months. Renewal of the exemption requires a re-evaluation and, if necessary, submission of a current medical certificate.

If, in a specific individual case, the school raises concerns about the medical certificate, further action is to be coordinated with the school supervisory authority.

The school management makes a decision, whether to exempt a teacher or an educational specialist from wearing a mask based on a recommendation from the Institute for Teachers' Health. Engagement in classroom teaching as well as other activities requiring direct contact with other persons are not permitted if the mask is not worn, as a general rule.

3. Room hygiene

The following measures do not only apply to classrooms but to all rooms. This means that for teacher's lounges, secretary's offices or conference rooms organizational and technical measures need to be taken that make the best implementation of hygiene rules possible.

3.1. Ventilation

Regular ventilation serves hygiene and improves air quality because the number of pathogens can increase in closed rooms. A supply of fresh air as high as possible is one of the most effective methods to remove aerosols potentially containing viruses from rooms. Intensive ventilation of rooms by proper **shock ventilation** and **cross ventilation** is to be regarded. Tilt ventilation is mostly ineffective as hardly any air is exchanged.

In order to keep up hygiene and reduce pathogens potentially contained in the air, classrooms are to be ventilated as follows:

- Before start of class,
- During class: after 20 minutes,
- During breaks (time period dependent on outside temperatures),
- After room use (end of class).

The **minimum ventilation time of classrooms** is (beside the size of the classroom) dependent on the temperature difference between inside and outside and the wind.

As a rule of thumb for the ventilation time during class, the following can apply

- 10-20 minutes in summer,
- Appr. 5 minutes in spring/fall and
- 3-5 minutes in winter.

Shock and cross ventilation cannot be waived. Even though short-term shock and cross ventilation with windows wide open leads to a cooling of the room by a few degrees (2 to 3 degrees Celsius), this is not harmful to health because the fresh air will warm up quickly; after a short time period the original temperature is reached. Hypothermia does not appear when ventilating 3-5 minutes.

Opening limits for pivoting windows can only be waived when the window sashes cannot be opened all the way (i.e. because of safety chains). Fully opened windows

are to be supervised because of the accompanying risk of accident. The administrative regulations for supervisions in schools (VV Aufsicht in Schulen) is to be regarded.⁶

If windows in a room cannot be opened permanently for structural reasons, the room is not suitable for class except an effective ventilation system is installed.

It is to be clarified with the school's authority, if and in which cases urgently needed classrooms that cannot be sufficiently ventilated through windows, can be fitted with mobile air purification systems, simple ventilation systems or combined intake and exhaust air systems. Even when such devices and systems are used in a room, the general infection-preventive measures (distancing, hygiene, mask and ventilation) cannot be neglected.

If needed, the institute for teacher's health and the RLP accident insurance association can be consulted.

3.2. Cleaning

The Standard DIN 77400 (Cleaning services school buildings – requirements for cleaning – Reinigungsdienstleistungen Schulgebäude – Anforderungen an die Reinigung) is to be regarded.

Moreover:

Even though the infectiousness of the coronavirus on inanimate surfaces decreases depending on material and environmental conditions like temperature and humidity, the cleaning of surfaces in schools is key. This also applies to surfaces with antimicrobial properties. Secretions and staining is to be removed mechanically. The school building is to be cleaned regularly.

⁶ Aufsicht in Schulen: Verwaltungsvorschrift des Ministeriums für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Weiterbildung vom 4. Juni 1999 (1546 A - Tgb. Nr. 192/98); <https://bildung.ukrpl.de/?id=519>

The following areas are to be cleaned thoroughly and, in heavily frequented areas, multiple times a day:

- Door knobs and handles (i.e. on drawers and windows), door frames, handrails, light switches, tables, chairs, telephones, copy machines
- Computer mice and keyboards

A routine surface disinfection in schools is **not** recommended by the Robert-Koch-Institute even in the light of the Covid pandemic. A proper cleaning is fully sufficient. An additional disinfection of surfaces can be appropriate in certain situations (i.e. contamination with body excretions like blood, vomit or stools). If a disinfection is regarded as necessary in individual cases, it should be done as a wipe-down disinfection.

The joint use of objects is to be avoided (no exchange of work material, pens, rulers, etc.). If a joint use of objects is unavoidable in certain situations for pedagogic-didactic reasons, hands have to be washed thoroughly before and after the activity.

3.3. Hygiene in sanitary facilities

Accumulation of persons in sanitary facilities is to be avoided. Liquid soap dispensers and hand drying options (paper towels) are to be supplied and restocked in a quantity that ensures regular and proper hand hygiene. The functionality of cloth towel rolls from retractive dispenser systems is to be ensured. Collection buckets for paper towels are to be made available and a hygienic garbage removal is to be ensured. Sanitary facilities are to be cleaned regularly, at least daily.



4. Disease symptoms, illness and contact persons

In general, the following persons are not allowed to enter the school:

- Persons who are infected with the coronavirus or show symptoms typical for Covid-19⁷ or
- Persons who are under quarantine.

When showing symptoms during class, the person in question are to be isolated and their parents are to be informed.

4.1. Dealing with symptoms of cold and illness⁸

If a person has an infection with common cold symptoms, they cannot attend school. This includes lower-grade cold symptoms in regard to the current pandemic.

The return to school is only possible when the student in good general condition has not shown symptoms within 24 hours (except light sniffles and occasional coughs).

Parents decide depending on the condition of their child, if they contact a doctor via telephone. The doctor will then decide if a test for SARS-CoV-2 should be conducted. If a test for SARS-CoV-2 is conducted, the person in question is to stay at home until the results are available.

If the **test results come out negative**, the student can return to school if they have not had a fever in 24 hours and is in good general condition and without symptoms (except light sniffles and occasional coughs).

If the **test results come out positive**, the stipulations and regulations by the public health office are to be adhered by.

⁷ siehe auch https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Steckbrief.html;

Husten, Fieber, Schnupfen, Störung des Geruchs- und/oder Geschmackssinns, Halsschmerzen, Atemnot, Kopf- und Gliederschmerzen, Appetitlosigkeit, Gewichtsverlust, Übelkeit, Bauchschmerzen, Erbrechen, Durchfall,

⁸ siehe auch Merkblatt „Umgang mit Erkältungs-/Krankheitssymptomen bei Kindern und Jugendlichen in Kita und Schule in Rheinland-Pfalz in der jeweils aktuellen Fassung

4.2. Dealing with positive cases and contact persons in school

In a confirmed Covid-19 case within a school/a class/a course, the Public Health Office decides on further measures on the basis of the „Absonderungsverordnung“⁹ (isolation ordinance), such as classification of the contact persons with reference to individual risk assessment of the concrete situation in the school.

5. Persons with increased risk

5.1. Personnel

In general, personnel can be protected by adhering to the hygiene and infection prevention measures as listed above.

5.1.1. Personnel with risk-increasing underlying diseases

According to the Robert-Koch-Institute, a general classification into a risk group is not possible. An evaluation of individual risk factors is to be conducted. Exemption from in-person classes can take place, when

- a COVID-19 case is suspected¹⁰ in the school. The exemption is valid until the suspected case is clarified.
- A COVID-19 case in the school is confirmed by the Public Health Office. The exemption is valid until 14 days after the last case in the school.
- In individual cases the service cannot be taken responsibility for due to the particular seriousness of the underlying disease(s). The exemption is temporary and as long as necessary from a welfare perspective.

The school administrators make decisions on exemption from in-person class upon application by the teacher and based on recommendation from the Institute for Teacher's Health. If an exemption by the school administration has been agreed upon before the implementation of the 7. Hygiene Concept – Corona on the basis of a doctor's note, a subsequent recommendation of the Institute for Teachers' Health is not required.

⁹ Landesverordnung zur Absonderung von mit dem Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infizierten oder krankheitsverdächtigen Personen und deren Hausstandsangehörigen und Kontaktpersonen <https://corona.rlp.de/de/service/rechtsgrundlagen/>

¹⁰ siehe Definition RKI https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Empfehlung_Meldung.html

Teachers who are exempt from in-person classes will receive another task from the school administration that is to be fulfilled either in the school or from home.

5.1.2. Pregnant women

It is to be assessed via an individual risk evaluation, whether an unreasonable risk is posed for pregnant women; Apart from the type of work, any relevant underlying diseases and the infection incidence at the specific school are to be taken into account.

If a COVID-19 case in the school is confirmed, the pregnant woman is to be exempt from in-person classes until 14 days after the last case. The same applies to a suspected case of COVID-19¹¹ until the clarification of the suspected case.

The school administration is not to insist on assigning a pregnant teacher to in-person classes, if a pregnant teacher finds herself in no position to do so for concern about her own health or the health of her unborn child.

5.2. Pupils

5.2.1. Schoolchildren with underlying diseases that increase the risk

Schoolchildren with underlying illnesses are also required to attend school. At the same time, their health protection must be given high priority.

A general assignment to a risk group for a severe course of COVID-19 disease is not possible from a medical point of view, especially for children and adolescents. The German Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine (DGKJ) assumes that children and adolescents with chronic diseases who are well compensated or well treated do not have to fear a higher risk of a more severe COVID-19 disease than they do corresponds to the general life risk. In this respect, the parents / guardians in consultation with the treating doctors can only examine and critically examine the child in individual cases the extent to which the possible significant health risk makes a longer absence from classroom teaching and thus isolation of the student absolutely necessary.

¹¹ siehe Definition RKI https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Empfehlung_Meldung.html

In this context, it is to be assessed if regular schooling with special hygienic measures is an alternative for exemption from in-person classes (safe presence) so the connection to the school and possibly the class community is not lost (i.e. distance to other students, wearing of a higher-quality mask). Individual activities in which contact are difficult to avoid will only be conducted with distance, or spatially and separated in time from other classmates, while in-person instruction always has priority. This procedure is advisable if necessary after consultation with the treating doctor.

If an exemption from in-person instruction is medically deemed necessary, it must be proven by a doctor's note. This note must conclusively reflect the basis for the medical diagnosis.

The doctor's note must be presented in the original and paper form. As proof for the exemption from in-person instruction, the presentation of the doctor's note must be documented in the student record by means of the attached form (attachment 2) and counter signed by the legal guardian or adult student. The doctor's note remains in the possession of the affected. No copy will be made.

Exemption from in-person instruction may only be granted for a maximum of three months. For an extension, a new evaluation must take place and possibly a new doctor's note must be presented.

Even for students where the school is aware of a relevant pre-condition, the exemption from in-person instruction can only be granted upon request by the student and presentation of a doctor's note. The affected students receive a comparable offer in distance learning according to the technical and organizational possibilities.

5.2.2. Pregnant students

For pregnant students, points mentioned for pregnant teachers under 5.1.2 applies. The affected students receive a comparable offer through distance learning according to the technical and organizational possibilities.

5.3. Angehörige mit risikoerhöhenden Grunderkrankungen

The prevention of infections within the household are the primary measures to be taken for the protection of relatives with a high risk pre-condition.

The non-participation of students in in-person instruction can only be considered in very rare cases and for a limited time only. This requires the presentation of a doctor's note for the affected relative which reflects the Corona relevant pre-condition. The exemption is to be documented according to 5.2.1 The requirement for students to participate in distance learning and tests remains.

The corresponding also applies to teachers and educational specialists.

6. Recess sales, cafeteria operations and EU-programs

Recess sales and cafeteria operations are possible under the conditions of the current Corona ordinance for the State of Rhineland Palatinate. Reference is made to the other stipulations of this hygiene plan, especially the wearing of masks.

The EU-school program will continue in school year 2020/2021. This applies upon request from the teachers and in consultation with the suppliers also during the times of alternating instruction. Aside from the fact that a spread of the Coronavirus through food is basically very improbable, the general rules for food hygiene should always be observed. These hygiene rules which have already been published in the framework of the EU-school program remain in effect.¹³

¹²https://www.bfr.bund.de/de/kann_das_neuartige_coronavirus_ueber_lebensmittel_und_gegenstaende_uebertragen_werden_-244062.html, Stand 06.08.2020

¹³ siehe auch <https://mueef.rlp.de/de/themen/ernaehrung/schule-isst-besser/eu-schulprogramm-in-rheinland-pfalz/>

7 Dokumentation und Nachverfolgung

The disruption of infection chains is instrumental in combatting any pandemic.

7.1 Documentation

In order to enable a consequent contact management by the health authorities, the following has to be observed:

1. regular documentation in the class and course books, this includes seating plans,
2. daily documentation of the presence of personnel at the school
3. documentation of individual instruction with close contact to the students (i.e. integration personnel)
4. Daily documentation of the presence of additional persons via name and telephone lists at the reception (i.e. trades persons, representatives of the school authority, department heads, external partners, legal guardians).

First name, last name, address and telephone number, as well as date and time of presence must be recorded. The data has to be stored in a manner that third persons may not view or have access to them. At expiration of the storage time of one month, the data must immediately be destroyed.

7.2 Tracing

The Corona Warning App can aid in the containment of the pandemic by very quickly identifying and informing persons who have had an epidemiologically relevant encounter with a Corona positive person. It also helps to reduce the time delay between the positive test of a person and the identification and information of their contacts. The use of the app is highly recommended for any person participating in school life.¹⁴

¹⁴ siehe auch www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronawarn-app/corona-warn-app-faq-1758392

8. Responsibilities of School Leadership

In Schulen ist laut Infektionsschutzgesetz die Leitung der Einrichtung für die Sicherstellung der Hygiene verantwortlich.

8.1 Reporting Obligation for COVID-19

The suspicion of a Covid infection as well as an infection must be reported according to § 6 section. 1 number. 1 letter t Infection Prevention Law.

The by-name report must happen immediately and provided to the respective Public Health Office at the latest 24 hours after receipt of knowledge.

For this, the Public Health Offices provide standardized report forms. Such a form can be found on the website of the Landesuntersuchungsamt Rhineland-Palatinate.¹⁵

A report may not be delayed due to individual missing pieces of data werden (vgl. § 9 Abs. 3 IfSG). At the same time, the responsible school board needs to be informed. Late registration or correction of data has to be reported immediately upon receipt of knowledge to the Public Health Office that has received the original report. The Public Health Office is allowed to request information that needs to be provided in the report by the one handing in the report.

After a risk assessment on the basis of the Infection Protection Act , the Public Health Office decides independently on quarantine measures, SARS-CoV-2 tests and closures of individual classes, courses or schools.

¹⁵ siehe auch <https://lua.rlp.de/de/service/downloads/infektionsschutz/>

8.2 Hygienic Commissioner

The school administration names a hygienic commissioner or hygienic team for their support. In preparation to this duty, practical online seminars on current basics of hygiene and infection prevention are offered in cooperation with the Universitätsmedizin Mainz and the Pädagogischen Landesinstitut¹⁶. Their use is highly recommended.

8.3 Communication

The questions in relation to infection cases in schools often come with a high amount of emotionality. A certain way of handling matters conveys safety. Thus, an immediate information of the concerned circle of persons (these could be: body of teachers, staff council, parents' association, students, special aids representatives, equal opportunities officers), discussed with the Public Health Office and the school board, is absolutely necessary because of the different areas of responsibility.

Here, the following principle is true: Internal before external information! Before media (and thus the public) is informed, all possible directly affected persons should be informed. For this, refer to „Basisregeln im Umgang mit Presse und Medien“ in the Handreichung für den Umgang mit Krisensituationen an Schulen.¹⁷

9. First aid

In most cases, providing first aid requires going below the minimum distance to the person in need of assistance. When in direct contact, first responders are advised to protect themselves as well as the person in need of help as much as possible. FFP2 masks are to be worn to minimize the risk of infection for the first responder, as well as for the person in need of help.

¹⁶ siehe auch <https://lms.bildung-rp.de/austausch/course/view.php?id=371>

¹⁷ siehe auch <https://schulpsychologie.bildung-rp.de/krisenpraevention-und-intervention.html>

It is to be ensured that the FFP2 masks provided to the schools are also kept on hand for first aid. Further information on first aid can be found in the guide for first responders "First aid in the workplace during the Corona (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic" published by the Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung e.V. (DGUV).¹⁸

IV. TEACHING UNDER PANDEMIC CONDITIONS

If the infection rate permits, classes are held regularly (Scenario 1). Deviations are possible depending on the respective infection levels; in this case, teaching is to be organized as follows for the entire school or parts of the school:

- **Regular operation without the distance requirement (Scenario 1):**

In-class teaching is conducted in the regular class setting and in the regular learning groups without physical distancing, in strict compliance with the infection control and hygiene measures of the Hygiene Plan-Corona.

- **In restricted regular operation with distance requirement (Scenario 2)**

In-class teaching can only be conducted in compliance with the distance requirement (minimum distance 1.5 m in the classroom). Alternating between in-class teaching and learning/teaching from home phases is required, if the distance requirement in class cannot be adhered to.

- **Remote learning (temporary school closure, Scenario 3)**

In-class teaching is prohibited partially (course / class / grade level or grade) or for the entire school. Classes are to be conducted remotely for the class / course, grade level or the entire school only.

¹⁸ siehe auch <https://publikationen.dguv.de/detail/index/sArticle/3833/sCategory/154>